THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The present pattern of providing financial assistance to the States for handling natural calamities is based on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. No request has been received for any change in the pattern.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Scheme Relating to Balanced Use of Fertilizers by the Farmers in Bihar

3650. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a scheme on balanced and integrated use of fertilizers by the farmers in Bihar in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether training programmes have been conducted in the State for education of farmers about balanced use of fertilizers in their fields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Scheme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers, a Central assistance of Rs. 110.85 lakhs has been given to the State of Bihar, during 8th plan for the following:

(i) Strengthening of soil testing laboratories.

(ii) Demonstration of bio-composting.

(iii) Setting up of compost units.

(iv) Awards for use of organic sources of nutrient.

(c) and (d) Central assistance was given to Indian Institute of Soil Science (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) for conducting 32 demonstrations on farmers' field on balanced use of fertilizers during Rabi season of 1996-97 at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.38 lakhs.

Launching of Farm Research Projects in Collaboration with Israel

3651. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Farm Research Projects are being launched by Government in collaboration with Israel;

(b) if so, whether these Indo-Israel joint projects are being launched in Delhi;

(c) if so, the total land allotted by the Government for this purpose; and

(d) the details of the work undertaken and the amount spent on the Research Project, so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) IARI has earmarked a site measuring 17 acres of land for this project.

(d) The work is yet to commence and no expenditure has been incurred so far.

राष्ट्रीय गन्ना नीति बनाया जाना

3652. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कोई गन्ना नीति बनाने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में विभिन्न गन्ना नीतियों का अनुसरण किया जा रहा है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या किसानों के हित की रक्षा की जा रही है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो राष्ट्रीय गन्ना नीति बनाने में क्या बाधाएं है?